Lieutenant-Governor WITHER. Prayer by Rev. J. C. Granbery, D. D., of the Broadseret Methodist church. The PRESIDENT announced that the Clerk

office, read by the Ulerk. The PRESIDENT announced that it was ob tions that a quorum was present, and that

the Chair was ready for business. The following senators appeared in their sals: Messrs. Benzley, Bland, Clark, Cochna. Dawson, Eastham, Eubank, Evans, Finney, Graham, Greever, Grimsley, Holladay, Hundley, Lackland, Lawson, Lathron, Maddox, Massey, McRae, Meem, Newberry,

Nawlin, Patterson, Quesenberry, Ragland, Smith of Nelson, Smith of Russell, Taylor, Thomas, Ward, and Wynne. On motion of Mr. Nowan it was ordered that the Senate is organized and ready for The Senator from Carroll was ordered to

inform the House. A message from the House, by Mr. TALIA FERRO, was received announcing that that tody was organized and ready for business Ou motion of Mr. QUESENBERRY the resi dent clergy of the city were invited to open the sessions of the Senate with prayer. Mr. Nowlin presented a joint resolution providing for the appointment of a joint committee of two on the part of the Senate and three on the part of the House to wait upon the Governor and inform him of the organization of the General Assembly Agreed to.

The CHAIR appointed Messrs. NowLIN Carroll, and HOLLADAY of Henrico. The committee returned to the Senate afte strief absence and reported that the Executive welcomed cordially the members of the to be entrusted with it. General Assembly, and that he would communicate with them in writing.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE. The PRESIDENT laid before the Senate the annual message of the Governor, which was read by the Clerk as follows: COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,)

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE, RICHMOND, 2d December, 1874. Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Dele The course of the year now drawing to

close has been marked with events which im port good, not unmixed with evil, to the fuare of the Commonwealth. Everywhere the laws have been peacefully

executed. Crime of most kinds has sensibly have been of rare occurrence. Exciting political contests have occurred, and yet no sinties has interrupted the general peace. The as may respond to the demands of experieace will complete the efficiency of the do-

mestic government. most departments of business; and they suffer from the want of a circulating medium suf-It is in the face of these and other obsta cles, within and from without, and it is by laborious struggles, that Virginia is emerging from the disasters of the war. In view of our genial soils and climate, our unsurpassed agricultural, mining, manufacturing and commercial resources, it cannot be questioned that at some future period, either near or remote, this State will embrace as great wealth, prosperity, and power as any other equal area in either hemisphere of the globe. The full development of those resource depends greatly upon the wisdom and exeltions of our own people. It is, in large measure, for ourselves to determine, by the policy and the practice both of the Government and the people, whether the comingers of prosperity shall dawn upon the present or only upon a future generation. Undisheart. ened by past calamities or present embarrassments; cheered and strengthened by the virtue of a people whose courage and honor proofs; above all, relying firmly on that Providence without whose help our utmost the task of devising all the relief which good

In the proceedings of the late conference body. As a repetition of its contents here would serve but to consume time and to duplicate labor, reference is made to that paper for such detailed statements and suggestions in relation to the first statements and suggestions in relations to the suggestions are suggestions. restions in relation to the finances as would posterity. otherwise appropriately appear in this pres age. The report of public officers for the last fiscal year, submitted herewith, furnish all the additional information requisite for a clear comprehension of the condition of the

When the contents of all these papers are onsidered, it will become manifest that the most guarded economy for every appropria-tion, and the strictest care of every possible ficulties of the new fiscal year.

The conference, convened pursuant to the authority conferred at your last session, was the present system all the prospect further proposes to supply, as this country and in Europe a large propertion was either directly or indirectly repre-

DISPATOH.

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mous, and it was as satisfactory as the most sanguine of its originators had predicted or hoped for. It has done much towards vindicating the integrity of the State and to include confidence, good feeling and a spirit of cooperation in the relations between the Government and the public creditors. Altered to the state are considerably enhanced in market value.

If legislative action shall give to the plan proposed by the conference the nature of a contract between the State and the public creditors, or any large portion of them, then to the extent of such radjustment, it will duly proportion our present liabilities to our present resources; and it will postpose, the residue of unpaid interest until the increasing a shillty of the State shall be sufficient to nous, and it was as satisfactory as the most | structions of the Auditor of Public Accounts. | the proceedings was calculated to foment | message on this subject. The State should | inspections at home and abroad. An investhe President announced that the Clerk had in his possession the certificate of the election of Dr. McRar to fill the unexpired term of Colonel John K. Connolly, resigned. Dr. McRar came forward and took the oath of file, read by the Clerk.

RECAPITALIZATION OF THE DEBT. A recent correspondence between this office and the accredited sigent of the American Bond-funding and Banking Association (limited), of Liondon; is herewith com municated. It will be seen that the Association offer to retire and recapitalize the newly-assumed debt proper in new uniform obligations payable in thirty years and bearing an annual interest of four per centum erling. The Catails of the plan are emboched to the draft of a bill which forms part that the House of Delegates be informed of the correspondence. They are stringent. and without doubt would insure punctual compliance with the new obligations. Of course the bill should be amended in many minor particulars such as the one subject ing the State to suit in a Federal court; and others which might be mentioned. But its provisions being thus amended involve no important stipulations, no relinquishment of authority, no remedies against the State, for which precedents may not be found in the habitual legislation of the past.

My own information is not such as to war rant the expression of any positive opinion as to the nature and character of this asso clation or as to its ability to carry the proposed plan into successful execution. The dan itself is, in my judgment, just and expedient, and with proper amendments it ought to be adopted, provided its propounders shall first clearly and conclusively show that they are able to accomplish it, and ought It is submitted that if this particular offer s not accepted the Executive should be dothed with authority to contract with any

other parties of undoubted responsibility for the retirement of the debt on terms no ess favorable to the Commonwealth than those now proposed, with the amendment suggested. Reason exists for the hope that spen an adjustment of the debt can be If creditors surrender the bonds they now

tiold on the terms, proposed they would re-ceive good and valuable consideration for the surrender. They would receive bonds with the better security and greater market value than those they how bold. They would receive the full interest agreed on with cerdiminished. Offences of the higher grades receive but part of the agreed interest with constant uncertainty and irregularity. On the other hand, such an arrangement State of burthens which are greater than can

stability of this Government, its capacity; and the carried at this time, while it would subis will to maintain order, to enforce equal ject the State to no greater immediate obligajustice and protect personal right, have been | tions than can be met by the due exertion of habitually recognized and trusted by all races lits taxable resources in conjunction with a and conditions of the people. The general rigid economy of administration. It is in health has corresponded with the rare salu- vain to argue that this arrangement ties up State currency, prepared by the Treasurer brity of our climate. The interests of public our hands. Our hands are worse tied up aleducation have continued to prosper, As ready. It unties and relieves us of the most ration. It is believed its carefully guarded far as Executive authority can extend, un- disastrous entanglements in which our necessary expenditures are being lopped off finances were ever involved. It substitutes and just administrative reforms advanced. dew obligations, which we can perform, for I It is in vain we are told that a supply, of such changes in the body of the organic law existing obligations which we cannot now perform. In an important sense the State has now

eached the crisis of its fortunes. We can-On the other hand, the material interests not longer postpone the inevitable task of of large portions of the State are still pro- grapping decisively with the financial protoundly depressed. In many sections agri- blem, 1-11 must be mastered by a solution culture has again contended with unfavor- which will settle it at once and forever. No able seasons and proved unremunerative. disposition of the public indebtedness short The laboring classes have not yet reaped the of the dreadful alternative of repudiation prosperity their toil deserves. The growth can well be worse or more obnoxious to all our cities and towns, and the revival of concerned than the present. Enterprises of great magnitude, capable of developing dorment but wast resources within the State, of the State. A money-famine still pervades | are now paralyzed by such continued finan ceivable coupons, while wholly unsatisfactory State by the Federal Government, and they glods of each fiscal year, and thus they pe drain some of the sources of her prosperity. Glodically threaten to suspend the opera tions of the Government; and their further effect is to create in our midst combinations interested in resisting any readjustment of the debt. If we further postpone a finandifficulties and agitations as may be strong lay fu making an adjustment of itself multiplies obstacles in the way of the adjustment. A prompt and decisive adjustment brings forder out of chaos, repose out of strife, and

of its own vigor enables the State to fulfil the adjustment. When at the beginning of your present blennial term you assumed the law-making power you found, for the first time in the history of the Commonwealth, its ability to maintain its existence imperilled; its fluances in confusion; its credit prostrate at home and abroad; its integrity aspersed; its bonds dishonored in the markets of the world. A golden opportunity invites you to bring the payment of the public debt fairly within the bility of the State; to substitute the policy of permanence, stability, and repose for that abors are vain, let us address ourselves to of vascillation, uncertainty, and strife; to recover the withdrawn confidence of the monetary world, and to assure such an in flux of capital and immigration as will restore more than pristine prosperity and strength to the Commonwealth. I invoke with bondbolders, Lerewith transmitted, the most determined exercise of all your collective ability to achieve these ends. A suc debt, taxation, and financial condition of the cessful settlement of the public indebtedness Commonwealth, which I addressed to that will bestow greater positive good than any body.

I commend to your careful consideration the plan of taxation reported by the Treus, present Auditor of Public Accounts, in reponse to a resolution of the House of Delelly an act of April 22, 1874, the Governest sent costly and cumbrous as well as uncertain carry the state successfully through the dif-The report further proposes to supply, and

far as possible, the present deficiency in the Tressury by substituting for the present, news As this was a strictly business meeting be-tween the agents of the State and the bond. No other subject hears decation with such

out of the General Treasury does not opeate unequally and unjustly by causing the more orderly communities to bear an undue bare of those burthens. It is believed if auch charges were imposed upon the coun tles and corporations respectively they would e reduced by a more direct and watchful conomy, while increased interest and vigilance would be directed to the suppression of crime. It is also probable that fides and ther punishments less costly than that of imprisonment would be more generally visited upon the minor offences. Certainly ib the embarrassed condition of the General Treasury it should be stripped of every charge which without injustice may be either transferred or discontinued. a bug lost me

THE BASEMENT OFFICES. 79 361 14 The report of the commission if to examine and report upon the condition and management of affairs in the basement of the capital " is submitted herewith. The author of statement, which constitutes the body o the report, performed singly all the more im portant work of the investigation, which in-volved great labor, and he performed it with thoroughness and uncommon ability. The matter of his compensation is submitted to the General Assembly, with the recommend-ation that it he made fairly to correspond with the magnitude and value of his ser-

vices.

The report discloses an additional item of loss in connection with the late defalcation, and it discovers insufficiences in the mauner. iave been kept. There is no reason to doubt the integrity of any officer now charged with of the receiving and disbursing husiness o the Government should be provided with such checks and precautions as will carry; safely through the contingencies of all coming time. The object of well-arranged checks and balances in the accounting system of the Government is to guard against the jufirmities of human nature, and to make it impossible that mistake or defalcation should ever decur without being followed, or rather attended, by quick detection. The present sys-tem for receiving and disbursing the general revenues is believed to be as nearly perfect as racticable; but the report points out de ects relating to the public debtand to specie finds which call for reforms Tours

In view of the diversity of the public funds, and the liability to error and derange ment in the several management of such numerous and to some extent disconnected deperations, some officer of the Government, plomatic power of the Slate—is lodged in in any manner aid and abet the injusticely dught to be charged with the duties of gene, the Legislature exclusively. Such lodg- These companies cannot escape the law of ral controller, with power to unitize all our ment of the power may be well during the public servitude, and they can be reached by It would be true economy to attach such

best order of ability. ..., vd hand should said to PLAN FOR PROVIDING A STATE CURRENCY. The plan for providing a constitutional at my request, is submitted for your consider

chactment would relieve one of the most grievous wants of our peo ple. national currency can be obtained by first complying with the requirements of the na-tional banking law. Such counsel is as in effectual as the advice to a starving and des titute man to buy bread for cash. It is impossible for a people stripped of their means tonds to be exchanged for national currency. Among the people of the interior in many portions of the State, the business of society is transacted on the most primitive principles of barter.

If the State currency should have less tendency than national bank-notes to flow on and be swallowed up by commercial cenosed that inconvenience might be success

It may be safely asserted that the proposed cheme infringes no law or constitution. ederal or State. Less skilfully matured lans have been adopted by other State vithin the past few years, and are said to have worked beneficially firm the

irginia have organized by selecting an umire, but I am not advised of their further ogress in the important business of the artration. As diffidulties have arisen, and itizens of the two States within the areas laimed by both, it is greatly to be desired that the pending arbitration be brought to a lose as speedily as may be convenient and beneral importance. racticable at a fait in the side in the On the 11th of September last a party of gosse of an inspector, arrested several citiens of Maryland, on Pocomoke sound, on the charge of taking oysters the coin in vio ation of the laws of Virginia. In connection with the arrest publitzen of Maryland ause it is alleged that the unfortunate man eft to drift, wounded and bleeding at the percy of the winds and waves. The other ersons (arrested, or most of them) were dged, in the juil of Accomac county, and and of trade, and the quantity laint for that Under the construction which, in accord-

ce with the opinion of the Attorney Gen ral, I gave to the twenty-second section of the act approved April 18, 1874, known is the oyster-law, it was improper to arjest citizens of Maryland for laking ove ers in the waters of the Poconicke While it is conceded: on ball sides that the act extended to citizens of Maryland noke river, it is nevertheless contended in upport of the arrest! that the sound is not uded in the term "river," and that conquently me privilege was given to citizens Maryland to take eysters in that partiel ing that the Legislature did not intend to empty privilege of laking oysters in waters, where oysters never existed, but that the privilege had reference to that pure of the waters of the Potomoke, wherein alone pysiers can be taken. I Acquainted the attorney for the Common wealth in Accomme consist with my construction of the law, and, while abstaining from any interference with the freedom and perfect independence of the tabletal depart.

position would be proper, even if it were

in view of all the circumstances it is recommended as important in the interest of peace and inter-State comity that a speedy declaratory act of Assembly shall render the true meaning of the controverted section of the law clear to all beyond doubt. It will be found that the legislation of the

st has repeatedly embraced Pocomoke und within the designation of Pocomoke er. In the compact between the two tates, of the year 1785, all the waters of Pocomoke were treated as Pocomoke ver. Although oysters have not existed waters except in what is called the ound, the Legislature, without referring to the sound by name or recognizing the exist-ence of such a local designation, regulated or referred to the taking of cysters in Poconoke river, by that name, in acts passed in 1819, 1820, 1831, and in 1869, and in the Code of 1849 and of 1800; while in other cts the oyster beds are referred to and decribed as located in the rivers of the Comnonwealth. In fact, many of our rivers are in large part but arms, of the great Chesa-peake bay, or see, and include what might be more technically called sounds; but in the habitual legislation of the past all their waters are comprehended under the single name of rivers. Did the Legislature intend by the twenty-second section of the act of the 18th of April, 1874, to subvert the legal homenclature of the past, or was it intended to give to citizens of Maryland the privilege of taking oysters in that part of the waters of the Pocomoke wherein alone they are to be found? So much excitement has grown out of

these questions that prompt and thorough legislation is required which will at once carefully guard the rights and interests of the people of Accomac and preserve peace and tates respectively. I recommend the pasage of an act extending to citizens of Maryand the privilege of taking oysters in all the vaters claimed by both States, and expressly ncluding, Pocomoke river and sound and bays but extending such privileges only until he true line of boundary shall be finally as-ertained, and upon condition that Mary land hall, by legislation, afford like protection to he citizens of Virginia in the possession of hary legislation in the way of fines and prohe same benefits.

In this connection I call attention to the matter pertaining to inter-State relationsthe whole of what may be termed the dislary to the office as would command the tive Department should be entrusted with in dealing with emergencies and maintaining peaceful and efficient relations with other states; should be empowered to control all local officers not judicial; and, by an extensien of the pardoning power, to remit fines. penalties, and forfeitures as often as justice and right in conjunction with comity to another State may demand. Such additional executive powers could only be exercised ander due responsibility to the legislative epartment, and it is not likely they would

PARDONING POWER. Experience shows that in cases of application for pardon representations of thefacts which are often incorrect and sometimes are addressed to the Executive. Even papers n such cases. More certain means of obought to be provided by law at it is sugrested that notice of every such application, the grounds of it, and of the time of preenting it, should be well advertised for a rescribed time in the county or corporation from which it emanates, and that the written opinion of the judge and attorney for the Commonwealth connected with the trial should be obtained, before the case is considered by the Executive.

intelligent and equal justice to all classes, The arbitrators chosen to fix the disputed ine of iboundary between Maryland and more important operations of society. A charged with the business of collecting. classifying, and preserving such particulars re constantly liable to arise, between the relating to production transportation, manutrade/and other interests as would acture sentially aid the Legislature in regulating essments, and taxes, and other matters of

A circular was addressed from this office to the clerks of the circuit and county courts itizens of this State, understood to be the calling for information in regard to judicial sales of lands, and the indebtedness which becasioned such sales. Full answers would have gone far towards testing the correctness of the present assessments of lands in all parts of the State, as well as the condition was shot, and he has sincedied of the wounds of the people and their ability to bear taxaion. A number of the clerks returned full counts deeply to be deplored, the more bear answers; for which they are entitled to public thanks, if not more substantial recogniion. A majority failed to make any response, while some refused to answer because no was provided for the service. If it be deemed inexpedient to create

bureau of statistics at this time, authority ught to be given to require answers in such s, and, if need be, to compensate the laor they involve. In this connection I renew my former re mmendation in behalf of the State Board

f Health. It will be seen from the report of the Sucrintendent of the Pententiary that this nstitution still creates a charge on the Treasury; but in fairness allowance should be nade for the late financial pante throughout he country, which has measurably curtailed

Of the two contracts heretofore entered nto by the State, and by each of which it was agreed to hire three hundred convicts o contractors, only one was revocable. This ast I revoked, and the convicts have been clet to the same contractors at prices about outle those previously obtained. It is desirable that the law be so amended as to admit of the hiring out of convicts sen-I also recommend that the board of direcors of the pentientlary be abolished, and that a board to be composed of officers of the Government be required to supervise nd direct its management. Besides the conomy of this change, it is demanded by ther considerations too obvious to need re-

Due advertisement has been made accord-

be its own immigration agency, through a board of its own officials, collecting and freely isseminating to actual and prospective immigrants all desired information in an authentic orm; attracting by effective sub-agencies ing such immigrants to settlements in contiguous small farms with perfect titles; guarding them against all imposition; and welcoming to our State, with a warm reception and continued good offices, all honest immigrants of whatever nationality and of what ver religious or political faith.

Transportation companies afford incessant ind indispensable aids to almost every interest of society, and their usefulness should be curtailed by no unjust or harsh legislation. But they are under the law of public servitude, and all persons, both corporate and na tural, should be bound to know that while one are so weak as to be beneath the proection of the Government, none are so strong s to be above its power.

SAILBOAD AND OTHER TRANSPORTATION COM-

Frequent and general complaints allege gross inequalities in the charges on some of the railroads. It would be unjust to compel railroad companies to charge the same rate per mile for long and short distances, be-cause one of the chief elements of cost to the failroad is that of handling, which is the same for short as for long distances. And so s to the transportation of passengers, the cost of the facilities furnished for short dis-tances would probably not be compensated if the same rate were charged for all dis-

But while these views are duly respected there need be no such discriminations gainst short distances as are in fact prac ficed in this State. Some companies are said to charge more for short than for long dis tances. This should be prevented by stringent and effectual legislation. No company hould be allowed to charge for any distance over its road, for either treight or passen gers, a greater sum in excess of the pro rate charge for the whole or any part of its line of road than may be ascertained to be proper and fixed by law.

No general complaint is made in respect to railroad charges where competition exists. but legislation should interfere to prevent whatever unjust discriminations and exac tions are practised at points where competi tion does not insure proper charges. It is said that railroad companies evade

legislative restrictions, and by their devices practically set at naught the inventions of egislation to prevent unjust discrimination. It is our duty to project the people of this Commonwealth, and to secure to our own cities such advantages as, from their location and proximity to trade, rightfully belong to hem. Discrimination may neutralize every advantage they have, and render hopeles the acquirement of any other trade in lieu of that wrongfully wrested from them. If ordihibitions will not reach the evil, let an efficient police be maintained on each road het that all control over every important it its cost, and let the criminal law of the Commonwealth be applied so that the prison doors shall be opened to all who contrive or which on the one hand; should be just and even liberal to the railroads; and on the other should be so moulded as cerfainly to prevent injury to trade or injustice

> to the people. A bill was reported, but not acted on, at your last session, which provided for a commission to examine into the management and business of the railroad companies, and to make annual reports to the Legislature as to their condition, charges, and proceedings. Such laws have been successfully executed and tested in other States, and have resulted

beneficially.

nspecting tobacco as call for legislative correction. The legislation of the past evidences a settled purpose to preserve and perstood to be; the great importance of this leading staple, so largely exported from the State; its exceptional nature as an article of merchandise and manufacture; its numerous grades in respect of character and value; the liability to mistake and other irregularities in sampling and preparing it for market; the impossibility of knowing or inspecting its value when once in market without stripping and breaking its bulk, and the advantage of baying it stripped and fairly examined and broken, and having fair samples drawn from it by sworn, bonded, and skilled officials, who stand as impartial agents between the seller and buyer, and can have no interest in the questions they decide. It is held that such in spections are necessary to attest fairly the ondition and character of the tobacco; that they will equally protect the seller and onyer gainst imposition; will command confience and facilitate sales in the markets at nome and abroad, and will promote its production by preserving the high reputation of the tobacco grown in this State.

It is alleged that the statute as now framed in many respects defective, easily evaded; and often disregarded. It is alleged that the napections are unduly controlled by the wners or lessees of warehouses; that the pirit, if not the letter, of the law is wielated y a common practice of allowing drawbicks or rebates to middlemen, by which the prolucer or seller is taxed more for inspection han the net sum actually received on that count at the warehouse; and that these and other irregules practices impair the value and character of the inspections, operate to the injurg of both seller and buyer and impose wrongful burdens on produc-

spector chose a by its owners and commis ioned on their nomination, and it is my tuty to fill the other wacancies annually rising under the law by appointing another nspector for each warehouse on behalf of the State. It dilling appointments of the atter class I have simed to select such men s are representatives of the planting and ther important interests involved, and such as would certainly put an end to the irregu-ar practices complained of in it is not undertood that the owners of warehouses or their ssees allegel aught against the fitness or orth of the appointees thus chosen on behalf the State, That the owners or lessees should i some cases oppose the inspection of tooccuatumeir warehouses by the appointees has chosen : that they should appose inpertions by any appointees on behalf of the late except those of their own dictation: hat they should seek to close their wire ouses and convert them into private estabshmenta rather than submit to appoint ents thus made according to law, and ather than consent to any reforms in the he alleged abuses do exist, and should be rought at once under the restraining hand It That "the state debt on the add" I

The costs and charges for handling and secting tobacco have generally amounted o more at private than at public warehouses.

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tigation will show that already tobacco is being habitually shipped by railway lines from
some of the private warehouses to other
States without the previous inspection required by law, thus at once annulling the
objects and the benefits of the system.

I recommend an early and thorough revision of the law for the inspection of tobacco,
and such amendments of the present system. and such amendments of the present system as will benefit all branches of the legitimat tobacco business, whether of the country or the cities, and secure certain and equal pro-tection to the producing, mercantile, and manufacturing interests concerned without impairing any just right of the warehous proprietors.

FISHTWAYS AND PISHERIES.

It will be found necessary to extend th time now prescribed for complying with the previsions of the act approved April 29 1874, to prevent obstructions to the free passage of fish in the streams of the State Plans for fish-ways, as required by the fourth section of the act, have been adopted and irculated; but the cost of such structures considerable, and more time, and, if pos ible, some substantial aid, should be ac corded by law for their erection. Your attention is invited to the great value

and importance of the fishing interests o

he State, and the inadequacy of the presen

statutes for their preservation. Some of the more enterprising States, with advantage or inferior to ours, have materially increased the food, comfort, and wealth of their peo-ple by prudent legislation on this subject With the exception, perhaps, of one or two lake States Virginia includes a larger proportion of inland waters adapted to the pro-portion of inland waters adapted to the pro-pagation of lish than any other State. Ex-perience asserts that with "proper protection every acre of water is expable of yielding annually a greater amount of human food han any acre of the land. Competent judges estimate the amount of food capable of being produced in our waters to be greater than if the pork annually saved in the State. The esults of actual experiments in other States rove that fish can be raised with less trou ole and cost than other articles of food Less money than it costs to feed the people of Richmond for one day would in skilled hands suffice to propagate and place in ou

ieties of fish. Stringent legislation is needed to preven breatened extermination of fish in our wa ers. Ingenious contrivances are being used, often by non-residents, which are rap dly destroying the supply of fish, and un-ess arrested they will render opr vast and therwise invaluable water areas worthless a source for the supply of fish-food. By one of these contrivances fifty tons of fis ave been seen to be taken in a single night A stringent law, with effectual sanctions nd penalties, should put an end to the use of pound, gill, and stake nets, fish-weirs, and all other contrivances which destroy or per-manently diminish the supply of fish. The liw should more effectually regulate and imit the modes and times of taking fish, and

ivers hundreds of millions of the finest va

should provide for the restocking of our vaters. I recommended the creation of a board commissioners of fisheries, with authority to enforce the execution of the law in respect supposed that nothing need be paid the board beyond their actual expenses. But a mode rate appropriation is required for procuring and propagating proper varieties of fish. I spirit of the closest saving to the Treasury, the hardest maxims of economy, dictate such appropriation.

THE PROTECTION OF SHEEP-RAISING.

inia, better adapted to pasturage than to illage, would contribute very rapidly to the which nature obviously designed them. But our pastoral lands are seriously diminished in value, and the important interest of sheep raising is not only much depressed but it many localities abandoned by reason of the increasing prevalence of worthless and costly curs. It is for the General Assembly to determine if a principle of political economy s to be set aside, and the well-being of the State and the force of its civilization to be bulked, by such influences as uphold the exstence of this grievous nutsance. Legislative aftempts to suppress it in the past have been bortive, because indecisive and timid, and ocal and neighborhood politics a question which ought to have been firmly and finally settled by the Government for the whole State. Such legislation provokes the opposition which defeats its objects and discredits its authors. The people never fail to sustain measure for their good if its authors so riew; and at the same time assume all just responsibilities for themselves. A law which promptly extinguishes an evil puts an end o contention over its merits, and its maniested results and benefits are sure to propilate its opposers. For the suppression of the intolerable and growing evil in question recommend the passage of an act with such nergetic and self-executing sanctions as wil make it promptly and certainly effectual and iraw to its enforcement the intelligent influ

nces interested in its object. A law should be passed creating a fund in every county, to be kept up by a liberal tax on dogs, out of worch all losses of sheer from their depredations should be fully paid for, except in those cases in which the own reof the guilty azimals can be found out

and held responsion vol. CENTRAL WATER-LINE.

James, River and Kam wha Canal Company isking at thority, by means of a mortgage of its property to connect the canalat Buchanan Chestyake and Obio railroad at Clifton Forge by an intermediate rail way thirty-two miles in length. This short interand east belt of the whole country into virtual juxtaresition. It would at once vitalize belt, extending far out on either side of the Blue Ridge, by supplying its sole want of the cheapest and best fuel. The scheme is ordially commended to your sanction. The proposed connection nowise conflict with the policy which looks to the comple vernment. It in fact furthers and expedites the same general policy an Mone will deny that it is peculiarly incumbent on us to with-hold no possible aid or encouragement, which night contribute to the consummation of

hat great work. The States of the great central tier, situ ted on the middle line of the continent tretching from the finest harbor in the varidiat Hampton Roads, to the centre of the received less of attention and benefice from the Common Government than any

rest section... On the line of intitudes enetrates the heart of the finest climate as constructed by the hand of nature along the limits of a municipality are not on largely the greater part of its length/linked side the principles of self-government to thousands of miles of river navigation, it is not only beyond the operation of the bolders, convened to consider and representation of the consider and representation of the principles of the principles

TERMS OF ADVERTISING

manufacturing States, and it will locate on the shore of the Chesapeaka the largest, cheapest, and best coal deput of the eastern, coast for the steam-shipping of the world. We have been often and unjustic taunied n the past. Let our answer beigiven by pioneering the development of the wh country. Instead of proving to be abstract ionists without action, and obstruction without resson, let us show to the world that while we hold firmly to every guarantee

of other freights it will warm and feed the

naugurate the era of practical statesman-Her own sons led the work of founding the Republic. To-day, with an impartial mind, she grasps the equal destinies of all the sec-tions and States, and she yearns for justice, equality, and fraternity throughout the land, from Maine to California.

f the Constitution we yet go forward and

and local acts of Assembly are by no means limited to the unprofitable consumption of ime and the cost to the Tressury which they avolve. Such legislation encrosches upon mportant principles of government it is almost sure in the end to break down the safeguards of legislative purity, and it has proved the fruitful source of the corruption which is alleged to have invaded the lawmaking power elsewhere.

nism, either reat or apparent, between the legislative and executive departments, I have gone quite as far in yielding my constitu-tional assent to acts of special legislation in

ensiveness, then the straitened condition of the finances and the demands for practical economy should arrest it. The legislation of each session includes a great mass of separate acts, affecting only particular individuals or localities, or interests, and providing special relief in each several case of continually recurring private and local grievance. Alli such cases are easily distributed into classes, and all-could be covered by a few brief general laws, which would more widely and effeetnally relieve such particular grievances as they sarise, thus forestalling the necessity for special legislation thereafter. The prac-tice which now prevails enoumbers the annual sessions acts. with a great amount of private and particular legislation as devoid general interest as the minutes of a local court; it engrosses a large pertion of the time of each session; it enormously incre the public printing, besides imposing others serious burthens on the Tressury; it induces many persons to look to the legislative the partment in the light of a judicial tribenal. and to besiege it with applications for the hearing and correction of particular ci and grievances, while the terms of the spe-cial acts are often defectively and even mischievously framed because hurriedly enacted. A vet greater evil of the system is to be found in the legislative habit of granting al-most indiscriminate charters of incorporation. Those who engage in reckless or event pernicious schemes of investment or speculation, and who are unwilling to render their to the erection of fish-ways, and the sup-pression of unlawful practices in taking fish, in case of success as of screening them from Hability in case of failure. In many cases the charters clothe the corporations with privileges and immunities which are denied to the body of the people. The corporations have perpetual life, and continue strength until finally they threaten to over-shadow the power of the State. Under a Government which forbids orders of nobility and privileged classes, which has forever estates, such special charters invade its fundimental principles and its safety, as well as s ip its purity. The genius of American in-stitutions forbids any such intermedding in the affairs of society as creates or fosiers mo-nopolies, aggrandizes privileged classes, or unnecessarily or unequally restrains indi-vidual freedom. What is done should be done by general law,—open to all without distinction—so that every citizen may be alike interested in its passage, and all may equally avail themselves of whatever privi-

leges it confers. touching interests of very great and general mportance-I recall to your attention the oil " to amend an act to incorporate the Potomac Land and Improvement Comp passed February 13, 1873," which passet the General Assembly at the last session the eve of its final adjournment, and tre which I withheld my approval for reason that could not then, for want of time, be communicated to the house in which it origicontain several thousand acres, and including the town of Potomac; constituted it a separate school district and a separate road district; declared the single proprietor, and such others as might be associated with him as share or stockholders, a body corporate and politic, with perpetual succession; em-powered a board of directors chosen by the all officers and agents for the management of the personal and real estate of the corporation, and to fix their compensation; empo ered a board of control chosen in like as ner to appoint an assessor, collector, secre-tary, and treasurer, and its the compensa-tion of each; vested in the authorities thus created the entire government of

I here with transmit a memorial of the the town and district, and authoranes, River and Kan wha Canal Company ized them with the proceeds of taxes inposed and collected, with the consent of a majority of the stockholders, to lay out and construct public buildings, parks, squares, emeteries, water and gas-works, isewers. mprovements, ornamental and conve no provision for prote

Rights but may be treesponsibly and absented provenies by whatever power called set over them by legislative provenies of the legislative power of the bringing charters by unfinited—if the bringing of the Bill of Rights for not reside the exercise of that power and see not the relations of the chicken to his more